

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Companies from India and China along with other countries sometimes bid for particular exploration blocks or fields abroad. Technical feasibility of transportation of energy, crude oil and natural gas, from Russia and Central Asia through China has not been established so far.

(c) to (e) ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL), a 100% subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), is active in securing equity oil abroad in various countries, including the countries comprising Confederation of Independent States like Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In 2001, OVL obtained 20% stake in Sakhalin-I project of Russia with an estimated investment of about Rs. 8,500 crores.

Entry of Gail in LPG retailing

2190. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited plan to move into the retail marketing of LPG;

(b) whether it would adversely affect the investment that the Indian Oil Corporation has made in developing its own marketing network based on supplies from GAIL pipelines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) GAIL has sought the permission from the Government to sell LPG directly to bulk customers.

(b) to (d) Government have not taken any final view on the proposal.

Allocation of Natural Gas to Andhra Pradesh

2191. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has recommended to the Central

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Government to allocate Natural Gas to BSES Andhra Power at the cost of two other power projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh have recommended to this Ministry that BSES Andhra Power Project, being the least fixed cost operating project, their fall-back allocation of natural gas may be made firm and the firm allocation of Spectrum Extension Phase-II and a part of firm allocation of Gautami Power Project Ltd. may be made fall-back, since these projects have not made desired progress.

Allocation of gas to companies

2192. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some companies without any infrastructure have been allotted gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Setting up of infrastructure is not a prerequisite for allocation of natural gas. Generally prospective consumers, before setting up a new units, apply for allocation of natural gas. Setting up of infrastructure is the subsequent stage. However, existing users may utilize the infrastructure already available for any additional allocation of gas.

Availability of natural gas in Tripura

2193. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States in which the presence of natural gas has been discovered;

(b) the number of places in Tripura where exploration of natural gas has been made and in how many cases it was successful;

(c) the quantity of natural gas which is expected to be present under the earth in Tripura;

(d) the quantity of gas to be liftable everyday and how much is being consumed now; and